

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14085 182321Z
ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7954

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EINV, BE
SUBJ: MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES INC.: COURT CASE

REF: A) STATE 179362; B) BRUSSELS 12753; C) BRUSSELS 14975

1. REFTELS B AND C PROVIDED SOME DETAILS ON BELGIAN COURT PROCEEDINGS AFFECTING THE U.S. FIRM MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES INC. THESE REFERENCES WERE NOT MENTIONED IN DEPARTMENT'S CABLE (REFTEL A).

2. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE SALE OF MERIDIAN'S ASSETS IN BELGIUM, WE CONTACTED FIRM'S LAWYERS, BAKER & MCKENZIE. MR. HERTEN, THE LAWYER HANDLING THE INTERESTS OF MERIDIAN, TOLD US THAT THE LIQUIDATOR WILL PROVIDE HIM IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WITH A LIST OF ASSETS SOLD. HERTEN BELIEVES THAT MERIDIAN SHOULD SUE THE LIQUIDATOR SINCE IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT HE "ABUSED" HIS USUAL RIGHTS BY DISPOSING OF THESE ASSETS WHILE THE CASE WAS ON APPEAL. HERTEN ALSO THOUGHT THAT BELGIAN STATE COULD BE SUED SINCE THE COURT DID NOT APPLY THE "STATUTE OF PUBLIC ORDER" (PARA 2 REFTEL B).

3. EMBOFF ALSO SPOKE WITH ASST. VICE PRESIDENT ROGER CHERNISS OF UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK IN BRUSSELS. HE INDICATED THAT BANK POSSESSED INFORMATION ON MERIDIAN
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ASSETS DISPOSAL AND PROMISED TO FORWARD THIS DATA (IN WHOLE OR IN PART) TO US ONCE BANK DIRECTOR RICHARD CUPP RETURNED TO OFFICE JULY 24.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT BAKER & MCKENZIE IS IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING INFORMATION NEEDED BY HALPERIN. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGEST THAT HALPERIN CONTINUE TO USE THIS CHANNEL WHICH

WOULD APPEAR TO BE FUNCTIONING SATISFACTORILY. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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